

corresponding to the light, a charge-accumulating section configured to accumulate the electric charge generated by the light-receiving device, and a transfer device configured to transfer the electric charge from the light-receiving device to the charge-accumulating section;

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a plurality of vertical signal lines extending along the columns of unit cells respectively, each configured to receive an electric data item corresponding to the electric charge accumulated in the charge-accumulating section of any unit cell of the associated column; and

a control circuit configured to control the unit cells such that the transfer device transfers the electric charge from the light-receiving device to the charge-accumulating section, during a vertical blanking period common to all unit cells.

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12. (New) An image pickup apparatus, comprising:

an array of unit cells arranged in rows and columns, each unit cell having a light-receiving device configured to receive light and to generate an electric charge corresponding to the received light, a charge-accumulating section configured to accumulate the electric charge generated by the light-receiving device, a transfer device configured to transfer the electric charge from the light-receiving device to the charge-accumulating section, and an initializing device configured to initialize the charge-accumulating section;

a plurality of vertical signal lines extending along the columns of unit cells, respectively, each configured to receive an electric data item corresponding to the electric charge accumulated in the charge-accumulating section of any unit cell of the associated column; and

a control circuit configured to control the unit cells such that the transfer device transfers the electric charge from the light-receiving device to the charge-accumulating section during a transfer period common to all unit cells, and to control the unit cells such that